

Plasma Profiling TOFMS

Ultra Fast Thin and Thick films Depth Profile Characterisation

The full mass spectrum
at any depth!

accurate



Applications

- Photovoltaics
- Photonics rare earths
- Ion implantation
- Hybrid materials
- Electrodes of Li batteries
- Corrosion studies
- Materials science

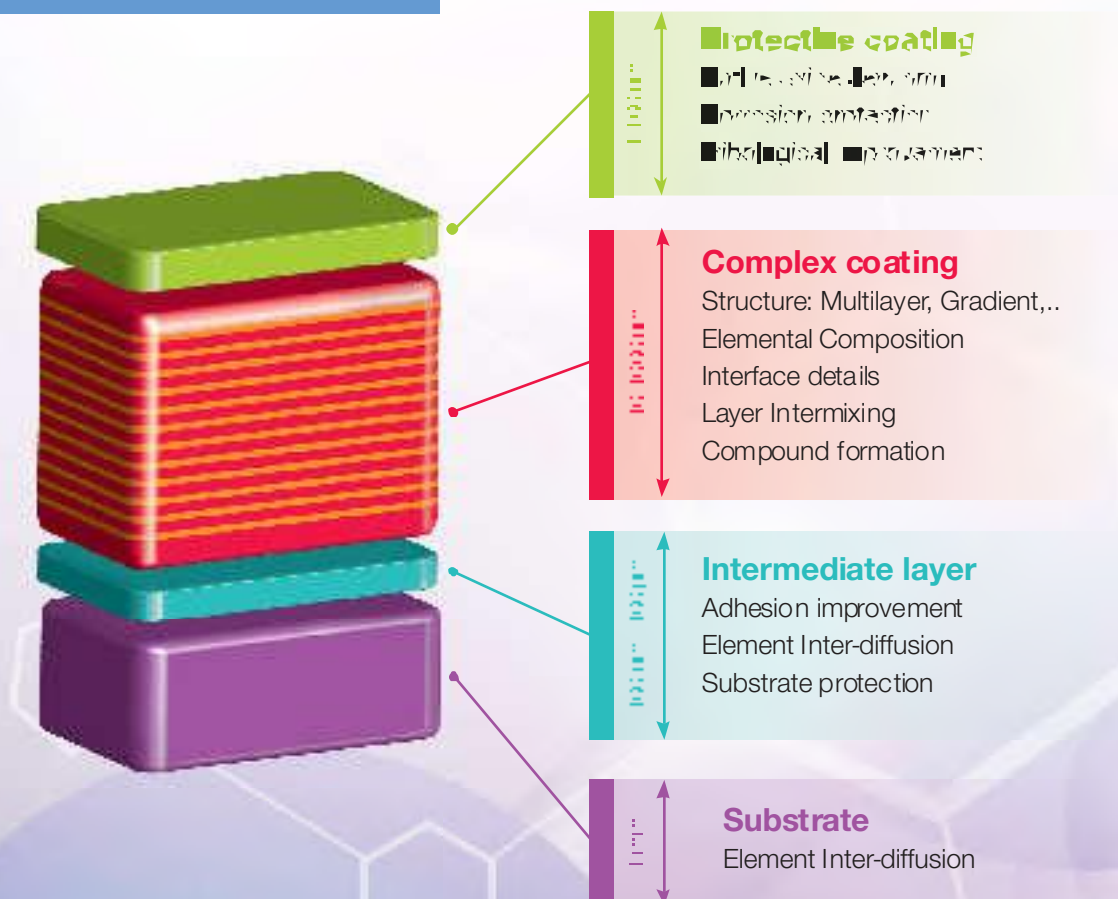
The instrument is born from a EU project ("EMDPA") coordinated by HORIBA Jobin Yvon which gathered 10 organisations from 7 countries with experts in material sciences, plasma physics/chemistry and plasma-surface interactions, renowned groups in GD-MS design, chemometrics and data handling and a provider of innovative TOFMS technologies. "EMDPA" partners have co-authored the chapter Analysis of Thin & Thick Films in the Handbook of Mass Spectrometry published by Wiley in 2012 (Lee editor).

Ultra Fast Depth Profiling

Time of Mass Spec

The Plasma Profiling TOFMS instrument (PP-TOFMS™) offers Ultra Fast depth profiling of advanced materials

made of conductive and/or non-conductive thin or thick layers down to the nanometre scale and allows direct simultaneous quantitative measurement of all elements, isotopes and compounds at any depth.



For all materials by Plasma Profiling

Flight Spectrometer

➤ Fast and direct analysis

A rapid erosion plasma combined with an ultra fast detection is the key to analyse samples in minutes. In addition samples are measured direct without any preliminary preparation or transfer into a UHV chamber.

➤ Thin to thick layers

The high density plasma results in high sputtering rate and allows for measuring thick layers up to 100 μm .

➤ High depth resolution

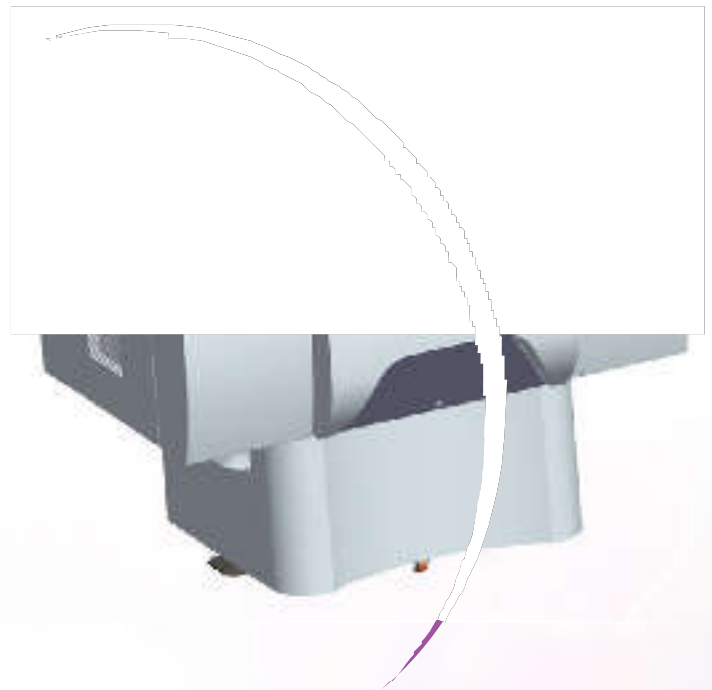
Despite the mm size crater formed, layers as thin as 1 nm are measured.

➤ Minimal Matrix Effects

The separation of sputtering and ionisation processes in the discharge volume gives the capability of a calibration free semiquantitative analysis.

➤ All types of materials

The use of pulsed RF excitation permits the analysis of conductive and insulating, inorganics, organics, and hydrides materials or layers, e.g. thin layers on thick glass substrates.



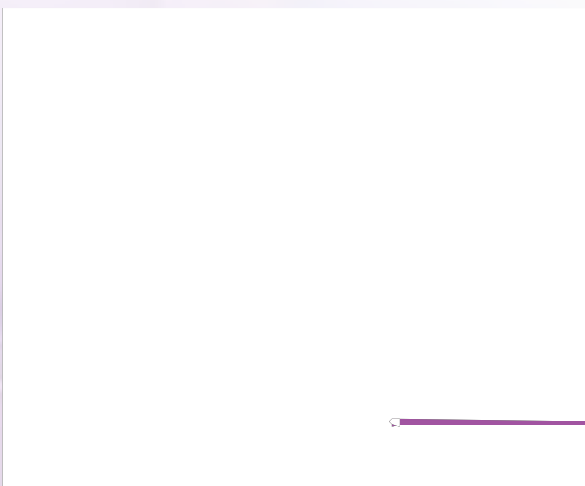
➤ Full mass coverage

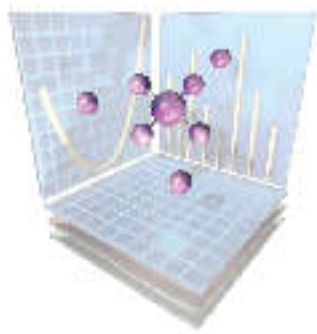
In contrast with sequential mass spectrometers, TOFMS offers full mass spectrum at any depth, offering elemental (from H to U) and molecular information, including isotopic monitoring.

➤ Unique 3D data

The glow discharge is operated in a patented pulsed RF mode thanks to an innovative matching system combined with high performance acquisition electronics and software. The temporal ion response over the RF source period is capitalised for high sensitivity and to avoid isobaric interferences.

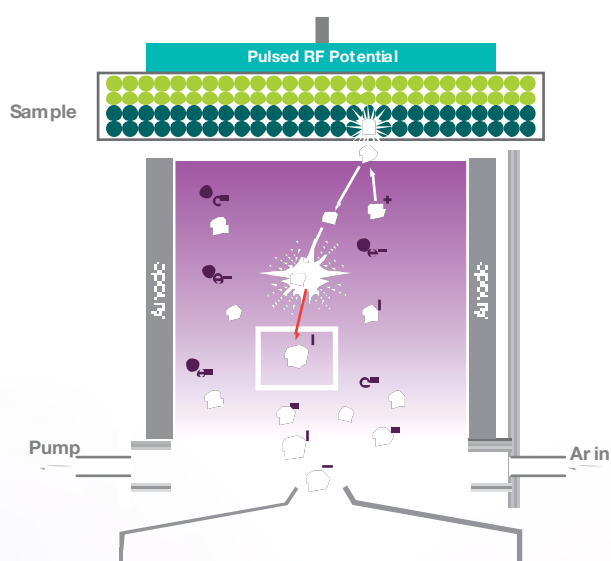
Ultra Fast Depth Profile of a hard disk (in linear and log scales) and associated erosion crater (4 mm diameter). New hard disks may feature up to 18 layers on the first 100 nm that are sputtered in less than 20 s. The instrument is used for detecting potential contaminants in the layers and at the multiple interfaces, and to evaluate the homogeneity of the composition over the entire hard disk area.





A multifunctional Glow Discharge Source

at the heart of the PP-TOFMS™



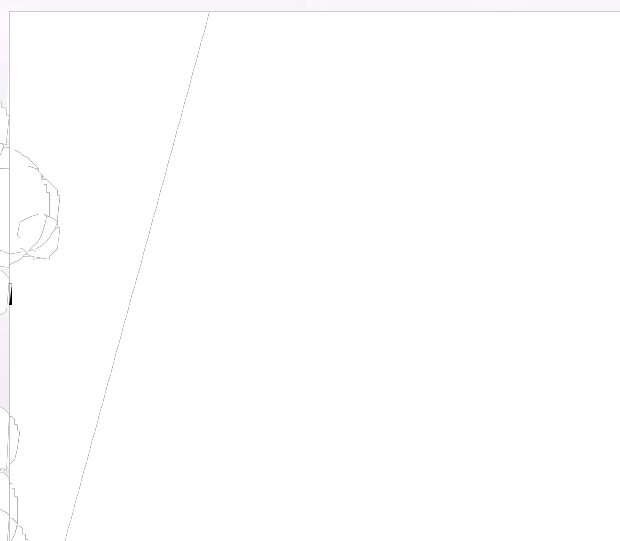
The plasma gas ions involved in the sputtering process have a low energy (50 eV), causing negligible surface damage; as a result the GD plasma sputtering is also ideal to prepare samples for SEM observation or EBSD measurements.

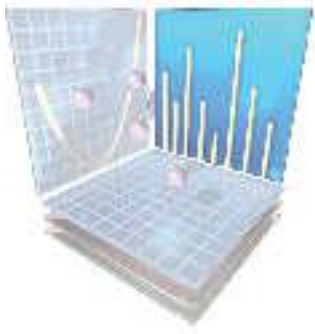
- At the same time the plasma assures **the ionization of the sputtered species in the gas phase** away from the sample surface (no matrix effect).
- The speed of sputtering is therefore directly linked with sensitivity, the more materials enter the plasma per unit of time, the more signals can be collected.
- The stability of the ionisation mechanisms in the plasma allows for **calibration free semi quantification (IBR)** or **easy quantification** through RSF or «Layer Mode» Calibration. Concentrations range goes from sub ppm to 100%.
- This on going dynamic process (sputtering, ionisation, collection of the ions, evacuation of the neutral species) allows **real time measurement** of all elements with the **PP-TOF Mass Spectrometer**.

■ The Glow Discharge (GD) Source is a low pressure, high density plasma (10^{-4} Torr) that erodes very fast (up to 1 mm/h) and uniformly during the GD process.

■ Pulsed RF sputtering allows that conductive and insulating materials or layers can be easily measured.

■ The sputtering rate and mode allows users to quantitatively measure the sputtered rate and to collect the sputtered material in the plasma and analyze it in real time.





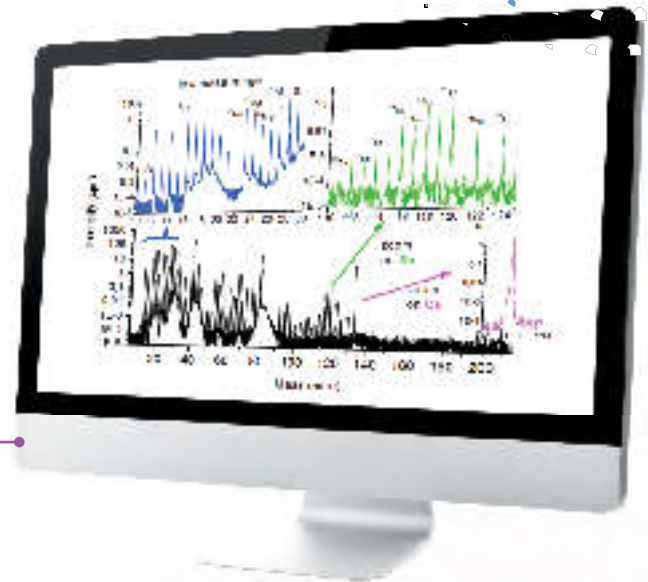
All masses at once

for depth profiling

A Mass Spectrometer measures elements and compounds according to their mass to charge ratio m/z . Compared to Optical Detection which is simpler, Mass Detection is the technique of choice for sensitivity.

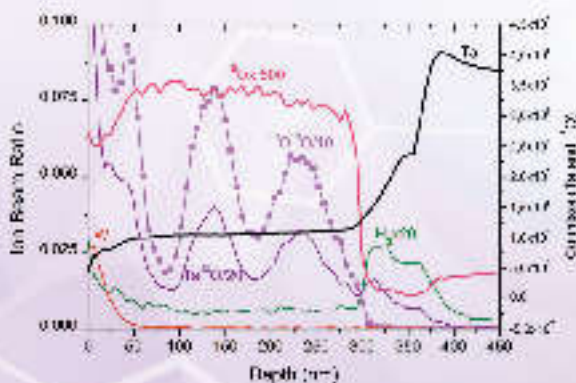
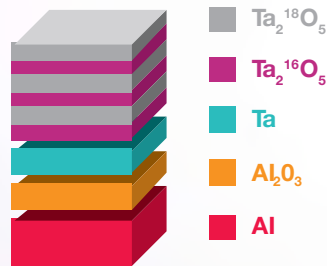
Compared to sequential mass analyser, Time of Flight (TOF) records a full and continuous mass spectrum thereby providing constant monitoring of all species throughout the depth profile.

Mass spectrum of a glass bulk sample containing Cs. The dynamic range allows measuring matrix, major and traces.



Isotopic Measurement

Isotopic labelling is often used in corrosion science to provide unambiguous determination of the presence and diffusion of species within a material.



Example of isotopic profile.

Ref: A. Tempez et al, Surface and Interface Analysis, 41, 966 (2009)

Positioning of the PP-TOFMS™

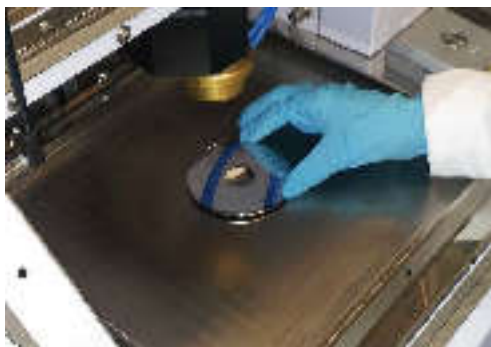
vs SIMS (TOF-SIMS): Speed, ease of use, sample handling and throughput, absence of matrix effect, ease of quantification, no need for charge compensation, averaging of larger erosion zone

vs GD-OES: Higher sensitivity, isotopic and compounds measurement, calibration free semi quantification

vs traditional GD-MS: Focus on depth profile, thin and thick films, entire mass spectrum at any depth, conductive and isolating layers

The PP- at a g

- Easy sample mounting. No UHV chamber, horizontal positioning, large samples possible.
- Easily dismantable GD source and sampler for fast cleaning.
- Various holders for foils or small samples.



Comprehensive software for

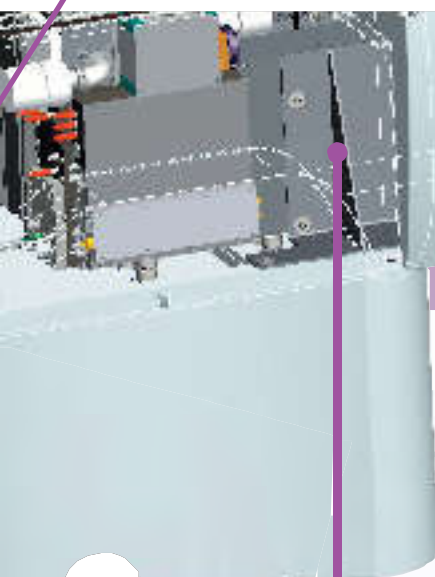
- ▶ Analytical tasks creation and optimisation
- ▶ Data handling
- ▶ Full control compatible with remote operation

Patented interface with flexible 'blanking' capability to lower signals of major ions for enhanced dynamic range and to avoid detector saturation.

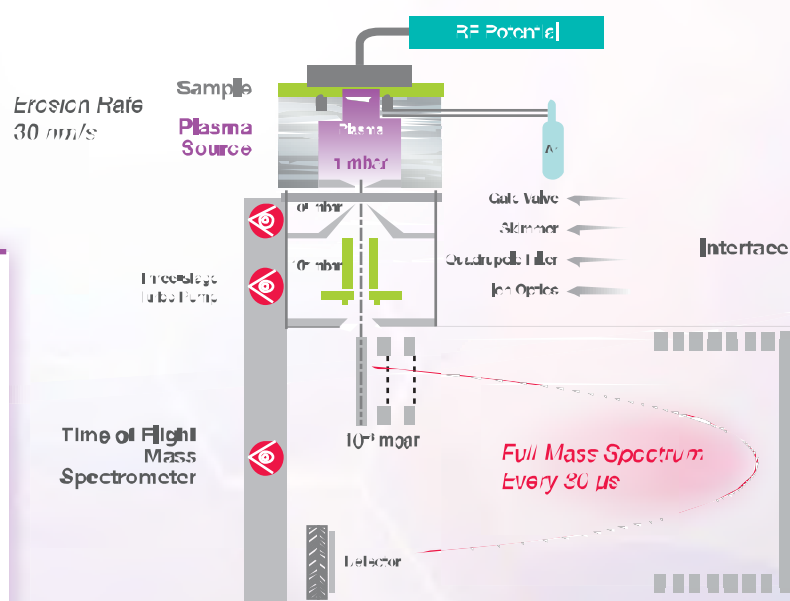
TOFMS

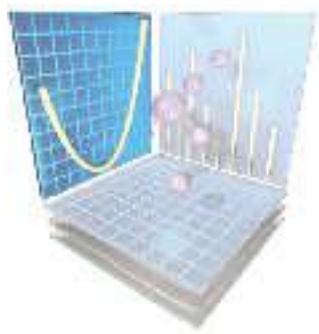
glance

- Patented Pulsed RF source with auto-matching in pulsed mode for optimum measurement of multilayered materials.
- Patented UFS device for fast sputtering of polymeric layers.
- Possible addition of magnetic fields around the plasma chamber for enhanced performance (patented).



- Fast switching gate valve to isolate the TOF and vacuum interface stages.
- Multistage differential pumping.
- Ultra Fast Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer in orthogonal configuration allowing for measuring transient ion signals generated from RF pulsed plasma.
- MCP detector for high dynamic real time measurement of all elements at any depth.





Enhance signal to noise ratio

The pulse timing effect

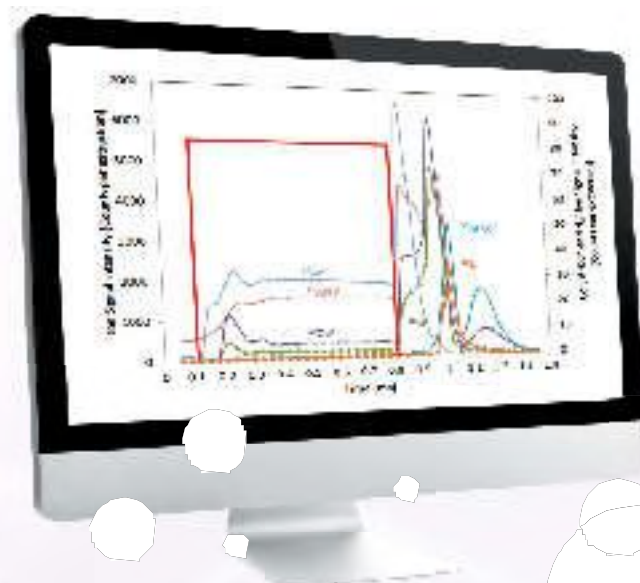
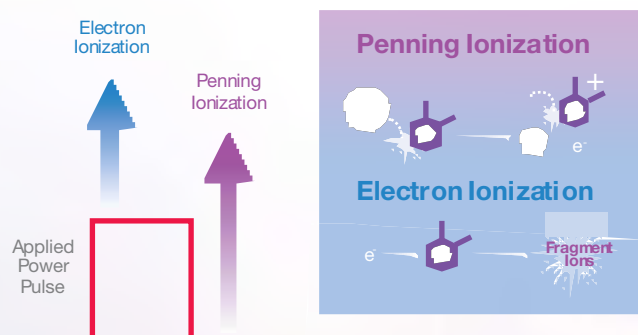
With millisecond pulsed RF operation appears a unique feature that is central to the operation of the Plasma Profiling TOFMS instrument.

Various ionization mechanisms take place at different moments of the RF period. Since TOFMS acquires a full spectrum every 30 μ s, TOFMS is perfectly adapted to monitor transient signals of the pulsed plasma over the RF period (few ms) with a pulse which can be varied from

0.3 ms to few ms. A time-resolved source profile is thus generated and an optimum time window may be selected per element to create the depth profile.

The analytical signals are usually taken in the afterglow region when the plasma is extinguished (Penning ionization zone) and can be temporally separated from possible recombinations.

Pulsed Glow Discharge : A tunable source



- ▶ Optimisation of sensitivity per element
- ▶ Time resolved minimisation of isobaric interferences
- ▶ Studies of plasma/material interactions and plasma chemistry
- ▶ Molecular depth profiles* and speciation studies

The use of an orthogonal TOF configuration allows to decorelate the pulsing of the source and the faster pulsing of the acquisition. It is therefore possible to acquire the entire mass spectrum at any time in a pulse.

* N Tuccitto & al, Rapid Commun. Mass Spectrom. 2009; 23: 549-556

Multidimensional Software

TOF Viewer: The entire mass spectrum at any depth and any time in the RF period. Optimisation of the analytical signals per element.

**Depth Profile/ Source Profile,
Mass Spectrum, Isotope table/
Operating parameters**

- 1 Mass spectrum
- 2 Source profile
- 3 Depth profile
- 4 Elements & Isotopes table
- 5 Operating parameters

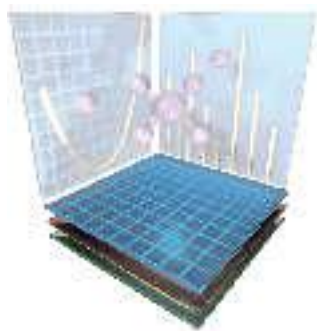
Measurement of a Co layer containing nanoparticles of CeO_2 on ferritic steel. The dynamic range allows measuring matrix, major and traces.

Full control of operating parameters

Data handling and reporting

Check up and control of voltages and vacuum levels

Each analytical result is saved in a HDF5 format file that contains the entire data set for potential reprocessing and detailed information on the operating parameters used for reporting.



Applications

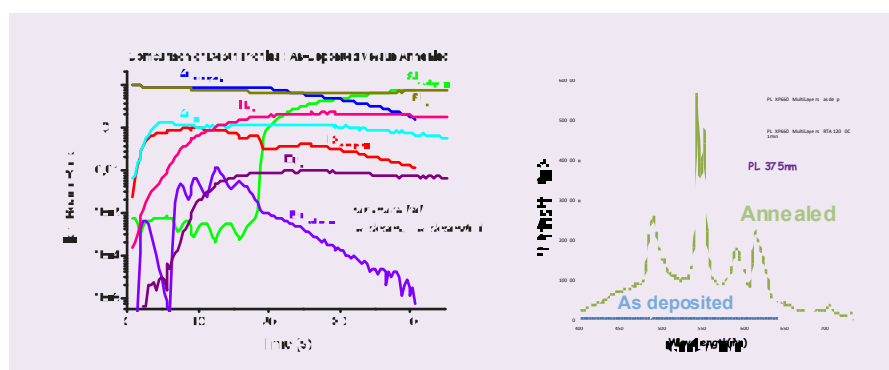
Speed / Depth Resolution / Sensitivity



Photonics

Study of Tb & Eu co-doped ZnO layers for white LEDs

[Eu,Tb:ZnO/Eu:ZnO] Multilayer 50 nm each layer by RF magnetron sputtering

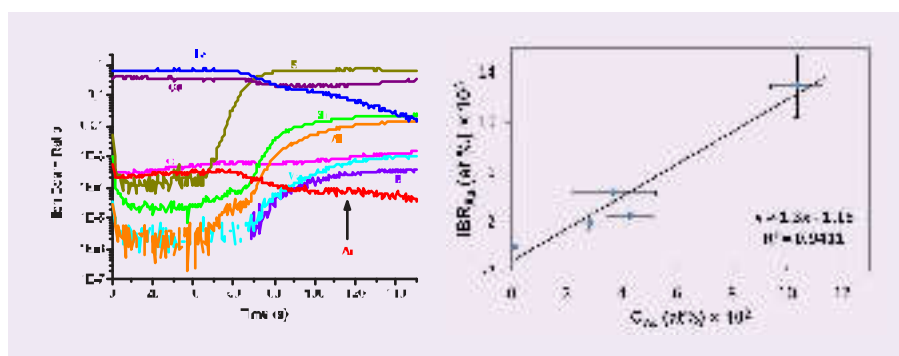


Annealing effect - Correlation between depth profile and PL data: change of matrix ZnO to ZnO₂ more favorable to the luminescence of rare earth
Courtesy of CIMAP (Institute of Materials and Photonics Research Center), University of Caen.

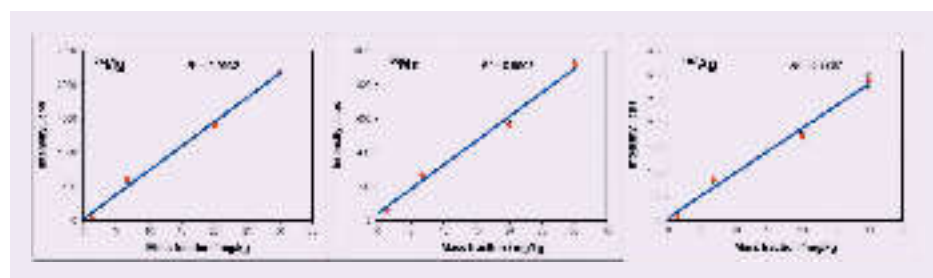


Solar Energy

Study of As doped CdTe deposited on glass in a horizontal AP-MOCVD reactor



Quantification of As - Comparison with SIMS - Good agreement observed at 10¹⁸ atoms/cm³ - First Control Tool (1st line in (b) of)
PVSat2013 Proceedings, Kartopu et al, CSER, UK.

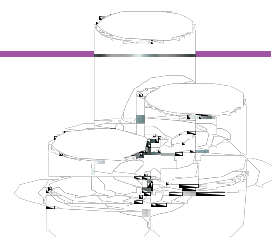


M. Knecht et al, Anal. Chem., 2006, 78(2), 202-207; J. G. G. et al, J. Appl. Phys., 2007, 102, 023501

Bulk

Application of solution doped powder pellets for the analysis of pure copper

Calibration Curves of Mg, Mn, Ag
H. Traub et al, German GD User Meeting in Duisburg April 2013

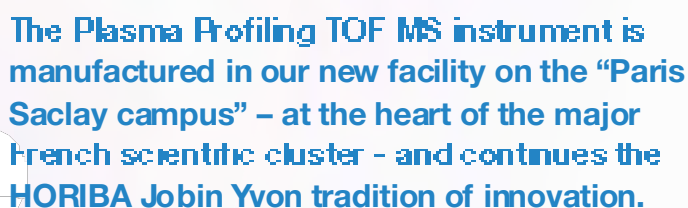


Specifications of the Plasma Profiling TOFMS

Ultra Fast and Sensitive Depth Profile and Bulk Elemental and Ultra Fast Sensitive Depth Isotopic measurement of conductive and non conductive materials and layers. Simultaneous measurement of all elements and compounds from mass 1 to mass 250 – and above if needed – at each depth (for depth profile).

- ▶ Compact instrument WxDxH 140 x 90 x 110 cm, weight 296 kg
 - ▶ Easy sample handling (no need for UHV chamber, horizontal positioning)
 - ▶ Nanometre Depth Resolution
 - ▶ Dynamic range of 10^{10} for the simultaneous measurement of major, minor and trace elements in each layer and at interfaces
 - ▶ Double "TPS" for optimized ion transmission all over the full mass range
 - ▶ Glow Discharge Source for sputtering and ionization in the gas phase
 - ▶ 13.56 MHz RF generator pulsing
 - ▶ Pulsed RF powering (ms typical pulse frequency) with automatic matching in pulsed mode
 - ▶ Ultra Fast Sputtering Mode of polymeric layers
 - ▶ High Resolution orthogonal Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer (3500 or 5000 at m/z 208)
 - ▶ Mass accuracy $40 \mu\text{ThTh}^{-1}$
 - ▶ Positive and negative modes
 - ▶ Ultra Fast acquisition rate (33 kHz to cover all elements up to U – a full spectrum every 30 μs)
 - ▶ Time resolved measurements recording transient signals of the pulsed plasma to select for each element the optimum time window
 - ▶ Interface with differential vacuum stages and flexible blanking capacity (up to 4 ions)
 - ▶ Multidimensional software allows display in real time and records the depth profile, the pulse profile and the corresponding mass spectrum
 - ▶ OS Windows 7
 - ▶ Full control of operating parameters and remote control capability for on-line customer support
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France	HORIBA, Ltd. P.O. Box 200, Courcouronnes, France 91001 Tel: 01 69 34 79 00 Fax: 01 69 34 79 05 Email: info.ed@horiba.com
USA	HORIBA Instruments, 8880 Phillips Ave., Eden Prairie, MN 55349-2001 Tel: 952 932 4000 Fax: 952 932 4000 Email: info@horiba.com
Japan	HORIBA Ltd., Tokyo Branch Office, 2-8, Wadaiyoshi-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0083, Japan Tel: +81 (0)3 5208 4721 Fax: +81 (0)3 5208 4780 Email: info-ed.jp@horiba.com
Germany	HORIBA, GmbH P.O. Box 10111, Heppenheim, 66061 Linscheid, Germany Tel: 49 (0)6240 28 70 0 Fax: 49 (0)6240 28 70 0 Email: info.ed@horiba.com
Italy	HORIBA, S.p.A. P.O. Box 81, Via Cassinetta 3, 20090 Oleggio (Milano), Italy Tel: 0323 601 800 Fax: 0323 601 020 Email: info.ed@horiba.com
UK	HORIBA UK Ltd., 2 Parkside, Gosport, Hampshire, H12 9JL, UK Tel: 44 (0)23 5964 4 42 Fax: 44 (0)23 5964 4 42 Email: info.ed.uk@horiba.com
China	HORIBA (China) Trading Co., Ltd. P.O. Box 5, Sijia Road, Wuxi, Jiangsu, 214000, China Tel: 86 (0)510 5281 0000 Fax: 86 (0)510 5281 0000 Email: info.ed.cn@horiba.com
Brazil	HORIBA Instruments do Brasil Ltda., Rua das Indústrias 2, 755 Pinheiros, São Paulo, SP 05508-000, Brazil Tel: 55 (0) 11 5546 500 Fax: 55 (0) 11 5546 500 Email: info@horibabrasil.com.br
Other	Tel: 86 (0) 6034 79 00 Email: info.ed@horiba.com

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